

## Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0358

NODIS

FOR ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR SANCHEZ

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PROPOSED REMARKS OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SAN  
JOSE MEETING WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE

1. A MEMBER OF MY STAFF BELIEVES THAT THE PROPOSED TOAST OF SECRETARY KISSINGER IS UNSUITABLE TO THE OCCASION. ALTHOUGH I DO NOT ENTIRELY AGREE, I AM PLEASED TO FORWARD HIS ANALYSIS FOR YOUR PERUSAL. HIS COMMENTS FOLLOW: THE PROPOSED TOAST IS, TO A MAJOR EXTENT LACKING IN SIGNIFICANCE. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, BY HIS REQUEST, IS ASSEMBLING FIVE CHIEFS OF STATE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. THE US PRESUMES TO LEAD THE FREE WORLD AND SEEKS SUPPORT FROM THE LEADERS OF THE FREE WORLD NATIONS. IN MANY CASES THESE NATIONS CONSIDER THE US AS THEIR SPOKESMAN IN MATTERS OF COMMON INTEREST. THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS US FOREIGN POLICY BEFORE THESE FIVE LEADERS SHOULD NOT BE LOST.

2. MAJOR PORTIONS OF THE PROPOSED "TOAST" REFERRING TO THE CENTRAL AMERICAN COMMON MARKET ARE LACED WITH HYPERBOLE WHICH CAN ONLY CREATE THE UNWANTED IMPRESSION OF PATERNALISM AND SPEAKING DOWN TO THE ASSEMBLED CHIEFS OF STATE. THEY KNOW FAR BETTER THAN THE SUGGESTED EXAGGERATED PROSE WHAT ARE THE PROBLEMS AND PROGRESS TOWARD CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY. MUCH OF THE PANEGYRIC IN THE PROPOSED TOAST CAN BE REPLACED AS FOLLOWS.

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3. "THE HISTORIC MOVEMENT TO EXPRESS INSTITUTIONALLY THE FACT OF CENTRAL AMERICAN UNITY BRIDGES TWO CENTURIES. THE EXPRESSION OF THE PAST DECADE HAS BEEN IN THE AREA OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COOPERATION. YOU HAVE TRAVELLED A GREAT DISTANCE. YOU NOW FIND THAT ADJUSTMENTS ARE NECESSARY AND YOU SEEK FURTHER MUTUAL COOPERATION. MAY I COMMEND YOU WHO ARE PRESENT, AND OTHERS WHO ARE NOT, FOR YOUR LABORS TOWARD THE BENEFITS THAT REGIONAL COOPERATION CAN OBTAIN FOR THE 18 MILLION CITIZENS OF YOUR COMMUNITY. I ADD TO THIS SINCERE COMMENDATION ONE THOUGHT. CREATING THE STRUCTURE YOU SEEK IS A COMPLEX AND TEDIOUS PROCESS, YET YOUR PROGRESS TO DATE SHOWS THAT THE MOST DIFFICULT TASKS PROVIDE THE MOST ENDURING REWARDS."

4. THE BULK OF THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT SHOULD BE DEVOTED TO AN EXPRESSION OF USG FOREIGN POLICY ON MAJOR ISSUES. BRIEF COMMENTS COULD BE MADE CONCERNING THE ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, OUR VIEW OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA, CUBAN INTERVENTION IN ANGOLA, AND COULD TERMINATE WITH COMMENTS ON THE GENERAL SPECIALIZED PREFERENCES (FROM WHICH CENTRAL AMERICA WILL BENEFIT), THE PROGRESS IN MULTILATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (FROM WHICH CENTRAL AMERICA WILL LIKEWISE BENEFIT), AND THE LATEST JAMAICA CONFERENCE PROGRAM OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND.

5. IN ANY CASE, THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS SHOULD CONVEY THE IMPRESSION OF THE STEWARDSHIP OF THE US FUNCTION AS A FREE WORLD LEADER. MANY PROBLEMS WITH WHICH THE SECRETARY DEALS ARE OF CONSUMMATE IMPORTANCE TO THE FUTURE OF THESE FIVE NATIONS. HIS STATEMENT SHOULD PROVIDE SUCH A RECOGNITION. THE SECRETARY SHOULD AT LEAST MENTION TOPICS IN WHICH HE PERSONALLY ENGAGED IN ORDER TO CREATE RAPPORT WITH THESE FIVE LEADERS.

6. GIVEN THE VELOCITY OF WORLD EVENTS, BETTER ADVANTAGE SHOULD BE TAKEN OF THE SECRETARY'S PRESENCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA.  
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